



Legislative Bulletin.....June 21, 2005

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Summary of the Bill Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: -\$12 million over 2 years

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: 0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 1

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:0

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H. Res. 207 — Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc. (Hulshof)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 21, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H. Res. 207 would recognize the 100th anniversary of FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc. Among other things, the resolution states that “FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc. was founded on April 15, 1905, by 7 students from the College of Agriculture at the University of Missouri-Columbia” and is “widely

known and respected on college campuses throughout the United States and Canada as a fraternity that encourages values-based leadership, has a strong academic focus, and is dedicated to service.”

The resolution resolves that “the House of Representatives recognizes the 100th anniversary of FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc. and commends the fraternity and its members for a century of service.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 207 was introduced on April 12, 2005, and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce’s Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness. No Committee action was taken on the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H. Res. 256 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in remembrance of the brave servicemen who perished in the disastrous April 24, 1980 rescue attempt of the American hostages in Iran (Saxton)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, June 21, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H. Res. 256 would express “the sense of the House of Representatives in remembrance of the brave servicemen who perished in the disastrous April 24, 1980, rescue attempt of the American hostages in Iran.” Several of the resolution’s findings are listed below:

- “On November 4, 1979, Islamic extremists stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran and took 66 American hostages, 13 of whom were released on November 19 and 20, 1979;
- “After months of diplomatic negotiations, planning, and intergovernmental debate, a complex rescue mission dubbed ‘Operation Eagle Claw’ was approved by President Carter on April 16, 1980;
- “On April 24, 1980, a Task Force comprised of United States Army Special Operations Forces, Army Rangers, Air Force Special Operations Wing personnel, and United States Navy, Marine, and Air Force pilots succeeded in moving thousands of miles undetected until reaching a remote location in the Iranian desert known by the code name ‘Desert One’;
- “Due to mechanical failures and weather problems only 6 out of 8 helicopters successfully arrived at Desert One;
- “At Desert One, a combination of helicopters and MC-130/EC-130 gunships rendezvoused with the intention of rescuing the hostages 200 miles away in Tehran the following evening;
- “6 helicopters was the minimum number of helicopters that could successfully complete Operation Eagle Claw;

- “The bravery, dedication, and level of operational expertise of the men who participated in the mission were evident from the onset and tested by the mechanical and weather problems suffered in route to the rendezvous point;
- “Within minutes of the arrival of the MC-130 Combat Talon at Desert One, the ground security force stopped a bus with 44 Iranians aboard and then a gasoline truck was blown up when it tried to pass through a roadblock that shielded the western entrance to Desert One;
- “Once all of the helicopters had arrived, the rescue attempt was dealt its final blow when it was learned that one of the helicopters had lost its primary hydraulic system and was unsafe to use fully loaded for the final assault on Tehran;
- “Members of Congress were dismayed with the poor equipment, lack of funding, and inattention given to our special operations forces that came to light because of this aborted mission;
- “In response, legislation was enacted to form the United States Special Operations Command;
- “USSOCOM continues to prove its immense value to our national defense as witnessed by the sterling performance of our special operations forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, and many other countries of the world; and
- “We owe a great debt of gratitude to the members and families of our Special Operations Forces.”

The resolution resolves that “the House of Representatives (1) recognizes the bravery, sacrifice, and patriotism of the soldiers, airmen, sailors, and Marines who participated in Operation Eagle Claw; and (2) commends all of the Special Operation Forces currently in service.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 256 was introduced on May 3, 2005, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. No Committee action was taken on the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.J.Res. 52 — Approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (*Lantos*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 21, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.J.Res. 52 approves the renewal of the import restrictions that were included in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-61). These restrictions prevent any article from being imported into the United States that is “produced, mined, manufactured, grown, or assembled” in Burma. To view the RSC legislative bulletin on the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, click here: <http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/LB71403.pdf>.

Additional Background: H.R. 2330, the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-61), passed the House of Representatives on July 15, 2003, by a vote of 418-2, one member voting present (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll361.xml>).

On June 24, 2004, the House passed H.J.Res. 97, which is identical to H.J.Res. 52. The resolution was agreed to, 372-2 ([Roll no. 232](#)).

Committee Action: On May 26, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score was available for this resolution. However, last year, CBO estimated H.J.Res 97, which is identical to H.J.Res. 52, would have reduced “federal revenues by \$2 million in 2004 and \$10 million in 2005.” The CBO cost estimate for H.J.Res. 97 may be viewed at: <http://www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=5553&sequence=0&from=6>.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: Yes. According to CBO’s estimate of H.J.Res 97, which is identical to H.J.Res. 52, would have imposed “private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Specifically, the bill would ban all imports from Burma. Due to the lack of information on the value of lost profits to importers resulting from the ban, CBO cannot determine whether the aggregate direct cost of the mandates would exceed the annual threshold for private-sector mandates established in UMRA (\$120 million in 2004, adjusted annually for inflation).”

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H.Con.Res. 160— Recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future (*Davis (IL)*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 21, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 160 resolves that:

- “Congress recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;
- “Congress supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation;
- “The President is urged to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe Juneteenth Independence Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and
- “It is the sense of Congress that—

- “history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future; and
- “the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.”

Additional Information: According to the resolution,

- “news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;
- “on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;
- “African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as the anniversary of their emancipation;
- “for more than 135 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and
- “although Juneteenth Independence Day is beginning to be recognized as a national, and even global, event, the history behind the celebration should not be forgotten.”

Committee Action: On May 19, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Government Reform Committee, which considered it and reported it to the full House by unanimous consent on June 16, 2005.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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